

Air Force Prime Time, a weekly news magazine for and about airmen stationed overseas, airs Thursdays at 8:25 p.m. Central European Time on AFN television. In this

week's edition, see how the Air Force is moving ahead in the 21st century; what the Air Force is doing in Europe, Africa and Southwest Asia; and more.

## News briefs

### 0-4 promotions

The following Team Eifel captains learned Tuesday they were selected for major:

Jay A. Boyd, James D. Cleet and Stanley Jones, 22nd Fighter Squadron;

James T. Robinson, 23rd Fighter Squadron;

James D. Darden, Lloyd D. Frazier, Raymond M. Sirak and Lolita D. Tyler-Lockett, 52nd Medical Operations Squadron;

Rolf K.H. Boettger, 52nd Munitions Support Squadron, Kleine Brogel Air Base, Belgium

David A. Flippo, 52nd Logistics Support Squadron;

Michael F. Cady, William G. James, Troy S. Owens and Vernie W. Pendley, 81st Fighter Squadron; and

Tracey L. Murchison, 606th Air Control Squadron.

### Pass and registration

The 52nd Security Forces Squadron Pass and Registration Office changed its hours recently. Restricted area badge issue is still completed on a walk-in basis; however other issues are handled by appointment only from 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Since most automobile registrations arrive 75 days prior to expiration, officials encourage people to take advantage of the extra time to make sure their auto is re-registered in time. People who miss the deadline can face a monetary fine and registration suspension.

To make an appointment or for more information, call 452-6695 or 6187.

### Consular Outreach Day

A Consular Outreach Day by the American Consulate General in Frankfurt is Wednesday in building 131 on Spangdahlem Air Base.

Representatives from the consulate will accept tourist passport applications and answer questions concerning citizenship, immigration, naturalization and passports. While the passports won't be processed on the spot, the turn-around times will be considerably less - a week or two as compared to four or six.

To apply, people need to bring evidence of U.S. citizenship, name change documentation

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# Eifel Times

Vol. 35, Issue 35

Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

Oct. 5, 2001

### Engine trouble

Airman 1st Class Atora Jenkins, 52nd Component Repair Squadron, helps replace a turbine frame of an F-16CJ engine recently in the engine shop on Spangdahlem Air Base.

Senior Airman Karen Z. Silcott

## Base exchange makes changes

### Brighter look to adorn store in time for holiday reopening

By Senior Airman Jennifer Lindsey  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

As the holiday shopping season approaches, the Spangdahlem Air Base Army and Air Force Exchange Service main store undergoes a metamorphosis, but instead of store staff displaying winter-holiday themed cutouts, construction workers hang ceiling tiles.

From rafters to floor, workers replace the facility's former interior with more functional materials designed to reflect light, creating a modern look, according to Teresa Gaskins, store manager.

Store renovations, which began Sept. 17, should finish in time for a Thanksgiving reopening celebration.

In addition to improved aesthetics, Spangdahlem AB exchange inventory will include additional items, such as diapers, top-selling baby equipment and furnishings in the

infant clothing section.

"We're doing this as an added convenience for our customers," Gaskins said. "This way new parents can get many of their baby's needs in one-stop shopping."

The store's new layout is partially designed to more closely mimic those of other Army and Air Force exchanges, but it also incorporates store managers' inputs as to what would best serve its local customers needs, such as the addition of baby equipment, Gaskins explained.

Until workers finish renovations in the front part of the facility, store goods have been clumped together as orderly as possible in the middle and back section of the facility.

Because space is limited, Gaskins has temporarily relocated some items, including Lancome cosmetics, in the Bitburg Annex exchange. Other items, such as shoes, are stored in the store's warehouse until the renovations are finished. Customers who can't find certain items should ask customer service if the items are in stock.

See BX, Page 2

## CFC-Overseas continues in Europe through December

Compiled from staff reports

The Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas, part of the largest public sector fund-raising drive in the world, began Monday and continues through Dec. 14.

Typically, CFC ends in mid-November, but this year's campaign was extended a month to allow for mailing delays and deployments, according to Greg Sassman, CFC European director.

Last year's campaign throughout the European Command raised more than \$5.2 million; nearly \$10 million in total overseas contributions. Member of the 52nd Fighter Wing contributed more than \$245,000 to CFC.

While government workers overseas make up only 2 percent of all federal employees, Sassman said they contributed more than 4 percent of the \$224 million

federal total last year.

This year's campaign has more than 1,300 charities from which to choose, including local programs. Wing members pledged more than \$9,000 to local support agencies last year.

During the campaign season, donors can designate contributions to a variety of deserving American and international charities through CFC-O, said Renee

Acosta, president of the campaign management organization for the CFC-O.

Payroll deduction offers a convenient way for people to give by spreading contributions across the entire year. Last year, Acosta said more than 90 percent of all CFC funds were given through payroll deduction. Payments on pledges begin the

See CFC, Page 2

## BX

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"If customers can't find what they need here, they should ask and we'll see if we have it in the warehouse. If we don't have it, but it's available at the Bitburg store, we can send a courier there to pick it up so the customer won't have to drive to Bitburg to get it," Gaskins said.

Also, with the winter holidays only a few months away, Christmas items will be set out for purchase as space becomes available in the store, but the special stock sells quickly.

"With Christmas items coming in, it's going to be cramped, but it'll be real nice once it's finished," Gaskin said. "(Recently) we had Christmas candles out and they were sold out the next day."

According to store renovation plans, the clothing section will be in the front section

of the store. Giftware, bath and body items, accessories, luggage and shoes will occupy the store's mid-section. The music, video and electronics section will remain toward the rear of the store. Stationary and greeting cards will occupy the very back section along with the film processing services. TKS will move to the store's former bath and body section.

The exchange was last remodeled in 1984. Today's renovations are mostly being done because it's simply time for an update, Gaskins said.

The store's November reopening celebration, just in time for the winter holidays, includes a Hummel figurine signing Nov. 16-17 and a book signing event Nov. 24, featuring local author, Sharon Anscorn, writer of the books, "Embrace Europe" and Embrace The Netherlands."

code number on the pledge card. Funds contributed to the CFC, but not designated to a specific organization or federation will be distributed to all organizations in the CFC brochure in the same proportion as they received in designations.

For more information and to contact unit campaign representatives, call Senior Master Sgt. Richard Aldridge at 452-6501 or visit [www.cfcverseas.org](http://www.cfcverseas.org).

## CFC

### Continued from Page 1

first pay period in January.

People who want to contribute to a specific unaffiliated organization or who choose not to designate to a specific agency or federation may still donate.

To designate all or some portion of a contribution to an unaffiliated organization, people need only record that organization's

## Briefs

### Continued from Page 1

if applicable, money order and two identical two-inch by two-inch photos. For more information and passport prices, call Rita Merkes, personal affairs assistant, at 452-6813.

### Holiday hours

Some local AAFES facilities close for Columbus Day, Monday. Spangdahlem Air Base: Military clothing sales store, Popeye's, car care center, SIXT car rental and service mart. Bitburg Annex: Furniture store, service mart, Dold Exquisite and Castle Theater.

Other local AAFES facilities have slightly altered their operating hours. Please call to check facility hours.

### Commissary holiday hours

The Spangdahlem Air Base commissary is open Monday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and resumes normal operating hours Tuesday. The Bitburg Annex commissary is closed Monday and is open Tuesday 2:30-7:30 p.m. Normal operating hours resume Wednesday.

### Update personnel information

Military members are encouraged to update their records. Items such as emergency data cards, SGLI forms, DEERS eligibility, wills, powers of attorney and dependent care data should be current for all members, regardless of deployment status. For a military personnel flight appointment, call 452-6553. For a legal office appointment, call 452-6796.

### NCO retraining program

The Air Force recently announced the beginning of the fiscal year 2002 NCO Retraining Program. Approximately 1,300 staff through master sergeants have the opportunity to retrain from career fields with NCO overages to career fields with NCO shortages. A list of affected career fields is available at the employments section in the military personnel flight. For more information, call Master Sgt. Brian Matthews at 452-6256.

## Accidents

By Staff Sgt. Edward D. Paxton  
52nd Security Forces Squadron  
Reports and Analysis

Eighteen Team Eifel members experienced vehicle accidents in the past week, five of which were major.

The first happened on B-50, near the Bitburg traffic circle. After investigating, security forces learned the airman took his eyes off the road and rear-ended the vehicle in front of him, causing that vehicle to hit another. The last vehicle was totaled, but there were no injuries.

The second took place on Bitburg Annex. An airman, who was traveling to fast for road conditions, rear-ended a vehicle, which was stopped. The airman's vehicle was totaled.

Another happened on L-46 between Trier-Quint and Schleidweiler. The Schweich Polizei determined an airman was traveling too fast for road conditions. As he negotiated a curve, he downshifted, lost control of his motorcycle and struck a guardrail. The airman had minor cuts.

One more took place on L-12 in Oberweiler. Bitburg Polizei found that a family member struck a German national attempting to cross a priority road on his tractor. The family member and her daughter were transported to Bitburg Krankenhaus and treated for minor injuries. Both the vehicle and tractor were totaled.

The last happened on L-39 near the B-51 exit. The investigation revealed the airman was traveling too fast for weather conditions. Because he was having a conversation with a passenger, he was unaware of a sharp turn and ran his vehicle into a guardrail. The airman's family member was transported to Bitburg Krankenhaus and treated for two broken fingers.

The 13 minor accidents involved:

■ Two accidents occurred while backing.

■ 11 were from inattentive driving.

Additionally, 26 citations were issued.

Security forces reminds people it is prohibited to pass any vehicle traveling on the B-50 except for slow-moving vehicles. A slow-moving vehicle is defined as any vehicle traveling less than 40 kmh. When passing slow-moving vehicles, drivers have the responsibility to do so only where passing is safe and authorized by German traffic laws.

Any driver who violates the no-passing policy will have their driver's privileges suspended for 7 days for the first offense and 30 days for a second offense.

Any driver causing a vehicle accident as a result of improper passing will have their driving privileges suspended for a minimum of 180 days.

### Vehicle check

Lt. Col. Peter Ellis, 52nd Mission Support Squadron commander, searches a vehicle for explosive devices. Ellis attended a personal security vehicle search course Sept. 27 conducted by Master Sgt. Kenneth McLure, explosive ordnance disposal flight chief of resources. The EOD course was the first of two requested by the security forces squadron and geared toward commanders and first sergeants. Base officials and the security forces remind people to remain vigilant at all times, particularly while operating in heightened force protection conditions.

Tech. Sgt. Rich Romero

# Awards recognize 3 USAFE child caregivers

## Spangdahlem Air Base provider among top in business

**SEMBACH AIR BASE, Germany** — Three professional child caregivers from U.S. Air Forces in Europe, one from Spangdahlem Air Base, are being recognized as the best at what they do during this year's Scholastic Early Childhood Professional awards.

The grand-prize Early Childhood Professional of the Year recipient, in the category of infant teacher, is Andrea Crandall of Royal Air Force Croughton, England. She competed against 500 other professional infant child caregivers for the award, including nominees from the United States.

Two other USAFE caregivers took honorable mentions: Terrance Packer, of Spangdahlem AB, was recognized in the preschool teacher category; and Roy Craft, from RAF Croughton was recognized in the toddler teacher category.

To recognize the vital role played by early childhood professionals across the United States and to honor their commitment to nurturing and educating young people, Scholastic, Inc., created the awards competition four years ago. This is the first time USAFE caregivers have competed.

For childcare givers to compete for this prestigious award, parents or colleagues must first nominate them.

"Having USAFE child caregivers recognized in three of the six nominated categories proves the caliber and quality of people we have working for us," said Stacey Young, headquarters USAFE child development specialist. "USAFE prides itself on quality training and professionalism by its child caregivers. It's great to see they are being recognized nationwide for their hard work and dedication to providing the best child care that there is."

Packer, who says he's always loved working with children, considers winning the award a sign others are looking at his work.

"What really means the most to me is somebody is

looking at how I work and what I'm bringing to this profession," he said.

Packer has worked at the Spangdahlem AB child development center for three years and for the Air Force for more than six years.

Grand prize winners in each of the six categories receive Scholastic products valued at more than \$1,000 plus a variety of other prizes, to include a trip to Anaheim, Calif., to attend the National Association for the Education of Young Children Conference.

Honorable mentions receive selected products valued at \$150 and various other prizes.

Scholastic's nomination criteria require a colleague or parent make the nomination and it be endorsed by either at least 20 percent of those who work with the nominee or parents whose children are taught by the nominee. All nominees must have at least three years of professional childcare experience. (USAFE News Service)

## Thrift savings program opens to military members

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** — Starting Oct. 9, service members can choose to contribute a percentage of their pay to the military's thrift savings and investment program as part of building a nest egg for retirement.

The TSP, administered by the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, previously has been available only to federal civilian employees. The fiscal 2001 Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act extended TSP participation to active-duty and reserve-component members of the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard, and uniformed members of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

TSP is separate from and in addition to the military retirement system, which is based on years of service and rank.

The first enrollment window for people who entered military service on or before Dec. 8, 2001, is from Oct. 9 to Jan. 31. People who enroll during this period will see TSP contributions deducted each month from their pay starting in January. People who join the uniformed services after Dec. 8, 2001, will have 60 days after entering service to enroll in the TSP.

After the special first enrollment period, service members may use two "open seasons" each year to join, quit or change the amount of their contributions. Currently, these periods are May 15 through July 31 and Nov. 15 through Jan. 31.

Military members enroll in TSP by completing a TSP election form and submitting it through their local service branch finance office. Enrollment forms are available for download on the TSP Web site, [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov), or can be obtained at local military finance offices. Participants can invest any whole percentage of up to 7 percent of their base pay in any or all of five TSP funds:

- The conservative G Fund consists exclusively of investments in short-term, no marketable U.S. Treasury securities specially issued to TSP. Since 1991, the fund has earned an annual average of 6.74 percent.

- The F Fund is TSP's bond market index fund. Since 1991, the fund has earned an annual average of 7.87 percent — and 12.78 percent in the past 12 months ending July 31.

- The C Fund is TSP's large-company U.S. stock

index fund. Since 1991, the fund has earned an annual average of 17.43 percent, but it has reported a 14.3 percent loss in the past 12 months ending July 31.

- The S Fund is TSP's medium and small company stock index fund.

- The I Fund is its international stock index fund. Both the S and I funds opened in May, so neither has a long-term track record.

The U.S. government only backs G Fund investments and earnings against loss. TSP participants risk losing some or all their investments and earnings in the F, C, S and I funds — but the funds' earning potential is unlimited.

Service members can contribute as little as 1 percent of their base pay per pay period, up to the 7 percent limit in 2002. The limit increases by 1 percent per year until 2005, after which contributions will be limited by Internal Revenue Code guidelines.

Members may also elect to contribute any amount of incentive pay or special pay, to include bonus pay.

Like civilian workers covered by the old Civil Service Retirement System, service members generally will not receive TSP matching funds from the government. One exception is troops in specialties designated critical by their service secretaries; those receiving matching funds will be obligated to serve a six-year active-duty commitment.

Strict rules apply to service members' withdrawal of funds from TSP accounts before they retire. Federal and state income taxes on investments and earnings are deferred so long as the money stays in the TSP account. Withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income, and early withdrawals are penalized under some circumstances.

Military members who already have a civilian TSP account, such as past and present federal civilian employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve, can open an entirely separate, second TSP account.

The 47-page booklet "Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan for the Uniformed Services" and other information on military participation in TSP can be found on the Web at [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov). The booklet requires the free Adobe Acrobat reader to view.

For more information, call Bill Triplett, family support center personal financial manager, at 452-6422.

## ALS graduates 70 Team Eifel students

By **Staff Sgt. Latitia Austin**  
Pitsenbarger Airman Leadership School

Senior Airman Steven Dolen received top honors from Airman Leadership School Class 01-7.

During the Sept. 20 graduation ceremony, the 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron member received the John L. Levitow, class leadership and academic achievement awards.

Distinguished graduates were Senior Airmen Cynthia Blackwood, 52nd Munitions Support Squadron; Jennifer Lindsey, 52nd Fighter Wing; Richard Norris, 52nd Operations Support Squadron; Gerald Peterson, 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron (Provisional); Corey Reedy, 852nd Munitions Support Squadron, Buechel Air Base, Germany; and Nathaniel Terry, 81st Fighter Squadron.

The other 63 senior airmen graduating were:

### Eagle Flight

Tobias Adams, 52nd Communications Squadron; Esperanza Berrios, 52nd CS; Nathaniel Carrara, 52nd Security Forces Squadron; Matthew Else, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron; Terrell Fluker, 22nd Fighter Squadron; Melissa Gyles, 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron; Daphne Jaehn, 52nd EMS; Steven Jenkins, 81st FS; Gary Lilley, 52nd CES; Jeremy Louk, 52nd CES; Mark Lucas, 52nd MUNSS, Kleine Brogel, Belgium; Maria McConnell, 52nd Medical Support Squadron; Patrick Oakley, 23rd Fighter Squadron; Yvette Prioleau, Detachment 1, Mission Support Squadron, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, Belgium; Tamarra Stanley, 81st FS; and Howard Wallace, 52nd EMS.

### Falcon Flight

Travis Beattie, 52nd CS; Michele Bolanos, 52nd EMS; Kelly Burt, 52nd EMS; Anika

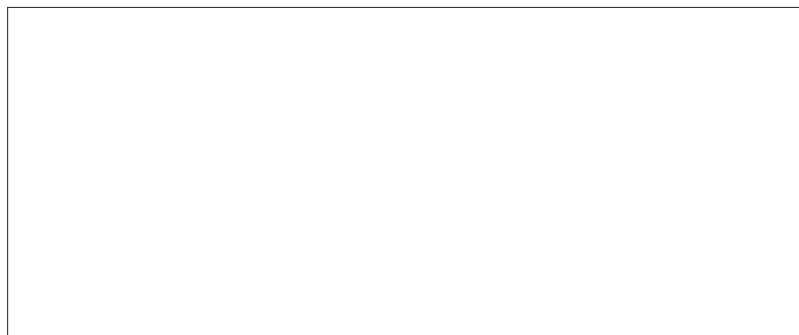
Cobb, 52nd LRS; Emmette W. Cornelius IV, 52nd EMS; Don Cota, 852nd MUNSS; Ryan Darrell, 52nd EMS; Christopher Deane, 52nd LRS(P); Michael Horne, 752nd Munitions Support Squadron, Volkel Air Base, the Netherlands; Robert Haner, 52nd CES; Dale McCain, 52nd EMS; Tamica Rippke, 52nd Comptroller Squadron; Scott Stitt, 52nd SFS; and Lawan Williams, 52nd MDSS.

### Magic Flight

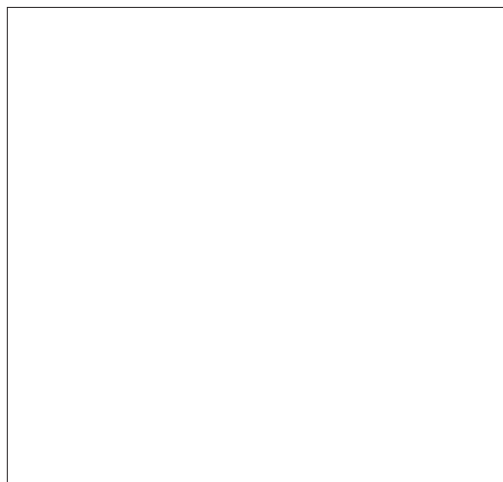
Bradley Bailey, 470th Air Base Squadron, NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, Germany; Sergio Berrios, 52nd MDSS; Christa Bowen, 52nd EMS; Matthew Brooker, 52nd LRS(P); Michelle Hacker, 852nd MUNSS; Madeline Holt, 52nd MUNSS; Shakoda Gilliam, 81st FS; Matthew Granger, 81st FS; Durwin Kerr, 852nd MUNSS; Ronnie Lewis Jr., 752nd MUNSS; Pheoshamin Marshall, 52nd CES; Michael Nobles, 752nd MUNSS; Jerrad Oakes, 52nd EMS; Wendy Shanks, 52nd EMS; Charles Smith, 52nd CRS; Christopher Tarleton, 52nd CS; Tyrice Thomas, 22nd FS; and Andrew Warr, 52nd CES.

### Warthog Flight

Peter Boone, 752nd MUNSS; Anthony Bottom, 52nd CES; James Chopik, 52nd SFS; Raymond Delgado, 52nd EMS; Fredrick Denne, 52nd CES; Steven Dick, 52nd EMS; Jennifer Hall, 52nd Services Squadron; Roberto Hernandez, 852nd MUNSS; Janet Hills, 52nd CS; James Richardson, 81st FS; David Ross, 22nd FS; Samuel Shinfle, 52nd CRS; Casey Siat, 470th ABS; Kenneth Tolbert, 52nd FW; Clifford D. Weida Jr., 52nd CES.



Children throughout the local military community share their appreciation and support for the 52nd Security Forces Squadron and increased protection measures through handwritten cards and letters. Above, a local elementary school student shows his appreciation by donating a portion of his lunch money. Right and below, students depict a security forces member with a police dog, a gate guard checking IDs and a security forces member on the job at an entry-control point as an F-16 flies overhead.



## Children's thank you cards raise security forces morale

*Handwritten letters offer more than what meets the eye*

By Senior Airman Jennifer Lindsey  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Dozens of construction-paper cards, handwritten letters and crayon-colored drawings depicting the American flag, fighter jets and Air Force "cops" cover the walls in the 52nd Security Forces Squadron building.

The authors, in their own words, follow a similar theme – thank you for protecting us.

Children from the local military community continue to shower security forces and other 52nd Fighter Wing units with cards, letters and unexpected singing performances to show their appreciation and help maintain unit morale.

Staff Sgt. Chris Brown, 52nd SFS, said the cards mean a lot to him because base security sometimes feels like a thankless job.

"These cards let us know people appreciate the job we're doing," he said.

The students' show of appreciation reached the squadron command section as well.

"In one of the cards, a student taped a nickel to it as a token of appreciation," said Lt. Col. Larry Laird, 52nd SFS commander. "This one really touched a lot of hearts. It feels good knowing the children understand we're here to help and protect them."

One wall within the squadron building is seemingly wallpapered with cards from Spangdahlem Elementary School third-graders.

"We chose to make thank-you cards for security forces because the children saw them first when the base went to force-protection condition 'Charlie'," said Dawn Flippo, SES third-grade teacher. "It's important for the children to feel safe. Daily, they see the Humvee parked at the front gate and the increased inspections, so we talked about what it's all about and gave the children the opportunity to thank the members for the great job they're doing."

"Writing letters is one way of empowering children to do something positive so they can relate what's on their minds," said Barbara Triplett, Spangdahlem Elementary School guidance counselor.

Only two of Spangdahlem Elementary School's 530 students have attended counseling as a result of recent events. The numbers of students visiting guidance counselors are low in other local military schools as well, says Triplett. There isn't as much crisis management

intervention as expected by school guidance counselors and that's a good sign. Teachers monitor their students daily, ensuring misconceptions stay at a minimum.

According to Chief Master Sgt. John Hearn, 52nd SFS manager, the cards serve two purposes for security forces members. In addition to increasing morale, they also show teachers are educating their students about the importance of force protection. However, increased force-protection conditions and security measures mean longer work hours and more stress for security forces members.

"One of the more obvious measures people entering the base see is increased vehicle inspections," said Hearn. "The physical and mental cost of all this is having to pull 70-hour or more work weeks. It all takes a toll on our troops."

Security members often come in about an hour or so early to prepare their gear for the day, get weapons assigned and report for inspection. They also often have to stay another hour or so once their shift is over to turn in weapons and finish post-reports. It's not unusual for a 12-hour shift to stretch into 14 hours.

"Increased force-protection condition levels often mean a cop's day boils down to just eating, sleeping and working," Hearn said. "This also takes a toll on the family because mom or dad doesn't have time to go to the soccer or football games."

The cards and letters not only touch the hearts of security forces members, but also of those of the more than 40 augmentees from various wing units.

"We couldn't work the schedules we have been without them," said Capt. Erik Bruce, 52nd SFS operations officer.

Military community members can also "augment" the security forces squadron by reporting any and all suspicious activities noticed on the road or in neighborhoods around home.

"Even if the call doesn't pan out initially, it may indicate a trend and lead to effective force protection," Bruce said.

Covering otherwise plain, concrete walls, simple construction-paper cards tell a complex message of military community support, appreciation and force protection. Perhaps the Spangdahlem Elementary School student who wrote, "Thank you for guarding our houses and making sure we are safe," sums it up best.



## Community Mailbox

### Barbershop hours

Beginning Saturday, the Bitburg Annex barbershop opens at 9 a.m. instead of 8 a.m.

### Special Children's Day

Due to recent events, Special Children's Day has been indefinitely postponed.

### Volunteer orientation

The American Red Cross volunteer orientation meeting takes place 10 a.m. Thursday. Those wishing to volunteer should call 452-9440 or 06565-619440 Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. or visit the office in Bitburg Annex building 2001.

### TRICARE information

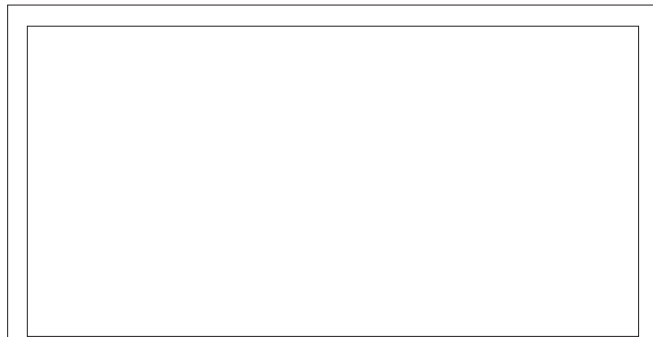
A TRICARE booth will be at the Spangdahlem Air Base Commissary noon to 4 p.m. Oct. 12. Call the service center at 452-3120 for details.

### Auditions

ACT-Eifel community theater auditions for the play, "A Rented Christmas," take place at 1 p.m. Oct. 13 in the Spangdahlem Air Base Community Activities Center. Part openings include a man, three women, a young boy and a dog. Show dates are Dec. 14-16 and 21-22.

### Give Parents a Break

Free childcare certificates through Give Parents a Break, good at child development



Donna Lennemann

### Stinky Feet

Jim Cosgrove, better known as "Stinky Feet Man", and his one-man Kansas-based band, "Stinky Pete", visited Spangdahlem Elementary School Sept. 27 to perform the Stinky Feet Tour. Helping out are SES teachers from left, Charlie Wilson, Ruth Morgan, Mary Ann Lamarre, Stinky Pete, Peg Nicolay, Susan Roberts and Susan Paz.

centers or youth programs, are available from first sergeants and the family support center.

Friday care is 6:30-11:30 p.m. and Saturday care from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dates for the free care are:

- Oct. 12 or 13 at Bitburg Annex locations
- Nov. 16 or 17 at Spangdahlem Air Base locations
- Dec. 14 or 15 at Bitburg Annex locations

### Spouses meeting

The 52nd Communications Squadron Spouses Group meets from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Oct. 18 in the Bitburg Annex Chapel. Call George Deanne at 06569-960805 or Patty Hutson at 06553-900331 for details.

### Communications class

A four-week class on improving communications and relationship skills takes place 7-8:30 p.m. each Tuesday Oct. 16 to Nov. 6 in Bitburg Annex building 67.

For more information, call the family advocacy outreach office at 452-3128.

### Conversational French

The family support center offers six-week conversational French classes on the Bitburg Annex. Call 452-9491 for details.

### Scholarship opportunity

The Veterans of Foreign Wars offers scholarships worth \$10,000-\$25,000 for seventh-12th grade students. To qualify, seventh and eighth grade students submit an essay on the topic, "Is Freedom Really

Free?" The high school student topic is, "Reaching Out To America's Future."

For more information, visit the school guidance counselor or call Senior Master Sgt. Frazier Speaks at 452-6960.

### Education news

■ New office hours for the City Colleges of Chicago-Europe are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2-4:30 p.m. each Monday through Thursday. It's also open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2-4:30 p.m. each Friday, except the last Friday of each month. Call 452-7558 for more information.

■ University of Maryland University College offers an academic adviser visit Oct. 12. Visit UMUC in the education center to make an appointment.

■ Embry-Riddle University offers a four-weekend college mathematics class Oct. 27. A three-weekend airport management class takes place Nov. 3. The university also seeks math and statistics instructors to teach at Spangdahlem Air Base. Call 452-7553 or visit the office in building 131.

■ The Air Force Spouses Scholarship program assists 30 spouses worldwide with \$1,000 scholarships toward associate or bachelor degree programs. Applications are available in the education center. Deadline to apply is Nov. 1. Scholarships are awarded at the end of January.

■ The Top-Up Program allows the Veterans Administration to pay Montgomery GI Bill members' tuition and fees not covered by Air Force tuition assistance programs.

■ Veterans Education Assistance Program participants are eligible to convert to the Montgomery GI Bill through Oct. 31. Certain eligible active-duty members have the opportunity to increase Chapter 30 benefits by \$5,400 by making a maximum contribution of \$600.

# At Your SERVICE

## SPANGDAHLEM

### Chapel

- ▶ Catholic Mass: 11:45 a.m. Wednesday-Friday; 5 p.m. Saturday; and 9:30 a.m. Sunday
- ▶ Confessions, 4 p.m. Saturday or by appointment
- ▶ Catholic religious education, 11 a.m. Sunday
- ▶ Protestant Sunday worship: 11:15 a.m.
- ▶ Protestant Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.
- ▶ Korean worship, 1 p.m. Sunday

### Commissary

- ▶ Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- ▶ Saturday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- ▶ Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Main exchange

- ▶ Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- ▶ Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## Child development center

- ▶ Monday-Saturday, 5 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### BXtra (shoppette)

- ▶ Monday-Sunday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

### Gas station

- ▶ Monday-Saturday, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- ▶ Sunday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### Outdoor recreation

- ▶ Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- ▶ Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Airmen's Attic

- ▶ Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

### Bowling center

- ▶ Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
- ▶ Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to midnight
- ▶ Sunday, noon to 9 p.m.

## BITBURG ANNEX

### Chapel

- ▶ Catholic Mass: 9:15 a.m. Tuesday and 11:30 a.m. Sunday
- ▶ Catholic religious education: 9:45 a.m. Sunday
- ▶ Confessions, 10:45 a.m. Sunday
- ▶ Protestant Sunday worship: 8:15 a.m. liturgical; 9:35 a.m. contemporary; and 1 p.m. Gospel
- ▶ Protestant Sunday school: 11:30 a.m.

### Child development center

- ▶ Monday-Saturday, 6 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

### Commissary

- ▶ Monday, closed
- ▶ Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
- ▶ Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- ▶ Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### Shoppette

- ▶ Monday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

## Furniture store

- ▶ Monday, closed
- ▶ Tuesday-Sunday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### Main exchange

- ▶ Monday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

### Gas station

- ▶ Monday-Saturday, 6:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
- ▶ Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### Car care center

- ▶ Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
- ▶ Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ▶ Sunday, closed

### Airmen's Attic

- ▶ Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

## Oberweiss Annex

### Pet spa

- ▶ Monday-Saturday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

# Medical group puts summer safety first

## *Logistics group runs close second in competition*

**By Tech. Sgt. Howard Bailey**  
52nd Fighter Wing Ground Safety Office

Labor Day weekend marked the close of the 101 Critical Days of Summer and for the first time in 13 years, Air Force families in Europe were able to celebrate the summer without a single ground-related tragedy.

Spangdahlem Air Base members celebrated its safe summer with a sports day and safety picnic Wednesday in Hangar 3.

As members enjoyed barbecued burgers, wing safety recognized the medical group as the winner of this year's 101 Days of Summer 52nd Fighter Wing safety contest. The logistics group came in second.

This year's competition was tough. All four groups experienced reportable ground mishaps and received seatbelt and driving violations; however, all groups aggressively earned reduction points by conducting a multitude of safety initiatives.

Throughout the summer, group members conducted vehicle safety inspections, performed seatbelt surveys, handed out safety flyers and encouraged driving safety dressed as Vince and Larry, the Crash Test Dummies.

Lt. Col. Henry Reed, the 52nd Fighter Wing chief of safety, praised group members' efforts in making this year's "critical days" safe for all the entire Eifel-region military community. Gen. Gregory Martin, U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander, also lauded USAFE's feat.

"Summertime gives people an opportunity to enjoy themselves with family and friends, but with those opportunities

come some dangerous activities such as grilling, hiking, water skiing, biking and more," said Martin, in a recent editorial. "Because of your diligence and attention to safety, we all have made it through one of the most dangerous periods of the year - congratulations.

"I thank every man, woman and child in USAFE for making this year's 101 Critical Days of Summer a safe one, and I ask each of you to continue that focus as we move into the fall, winter and holiday seasons. You are important to me; you are important to our Air Force; and you are important to your family members."

During the past four years, the base ground safety office sponsored the wing battle of the groups competition. The purpose is to develop a competitive spirit encouraging mishap reduction through functional manager involvement lasting throughout the 101 Critical Days of

Summer. Consequently, members from every base unit get actively involved in the wing's mishap prevention and summer safety programs.

In the competition, groups gain points for reportable ground mishaps, members are cited for drunken driving and for seatbelt violations. However, the groups can earn "reduction points" by conducting safety initiatives. Each group's goal is to earn as many reduction points as possible. The group with the lowest score by the end of summer wins.

Losing group commanders wash the winning group commander's vehicle of choice at the annual wing safety picnic. The medical group captured first place with minus 21.8 points.

As a result, the other three group commanders, decked out in medical group gear -- scrubs, booties and surgical hats -- washed a medical group vehicle.

## In the classroom

### **Mentor program**

Volunteers are needed for the Spangdahlem Middle School mentor program. About 50 people are needed to serve as mentors.

Program goals are to improve student ability in setting and achieving goals, recognizing the link between education and work, and to discover and build upon new strengths.

Volunteers need only commit one hour a week to the program. For more information, call Capt. Erik Bruce at 452-7557.

### **Harvest Fair**

The Spangdahlem Middle School Parent, Teacher, Student Association holds a Harvest Fair 5:30-8:30 p.m. Oct. 12 at SMS.

Games, a cakewalk, face painting, a used book sale, a silent auction, festival food and more are on tap. Admission is free. For more information, call Jody Turner at 06575-959127 or e-mail [turnertribe@t-online.de](mailto:turnertribe@t-online.de) or Maria Checkley at 06565-933303.

### **Play director**

Spangdahlem Middle School needs a director for its spring play. For more information or to volunteer, call Jeanie McNamara at 452-7255.

### **Lunchroom monitor**

Spangdahlem Middle School needs a lunchroom monitor for its cafeteria. For more information, call the school at 452-7259.

Staff Sgt. Cindy York

### **Friend or foe?**

Staff Sgt. Eric Traylor, 81st Fighter Squadron communications navigation specialist, tests the reliability of the identification friend or foe system prior to a mission at Graf Ignatievo air base, Bulgaria. The system is crucial because it helps air traffic controllers, AWACS and other fighter aircraft determine whether aircraft in the skies are friendly or not.

# Editorial Staff

Col. Greg Ihde.....Commander  
Capt. Angela Johnson.....Chief, Public Affairs  
Tech. Sgt. Rich Romero.....Internal Information  
Staff Sgt. Cindy York.....Editor

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publication for  
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Col. Greg Ihde

## Accessing Direct Line

The Direct Line program is a way to  
get answers to questions you still have  
after using your chain of command.

Direct Lines of general interest will  
be published in the *Eifel Times* and may  
be edited or paraphrased for brevity or  
clarity. Submit your Direct Line via:

- [DirectLine@spangdahlem.af.mil](mailto:DirectLine@spangdahlem.af.mil)
- Mailed to 52nd FW/PA, Unit 3680  
Box 220, APO AE 09126
- To public affairs in building 23.
- Concerns may also be sent via fax  
to 452-5254.

Anonymous inputs are accepted. To  
receive a personal response you must  
include your name and phone number.  
Call the Eifel Times at 452-5244 for  
more information.

## Number of days since last DUI:

As of Thursday

4

You have a choice.  
Call Airmen Against  
Drunk Driving  
at 452-2233.

# Viewpoint

Oct. 5, 2001

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## Family perspective

## Colonel's daughter reflects on military life

By Kelly Kirsteatter  
Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

Children of military families, also known  
as "military brats," know the one ques-  
tion in life that's probably the hardest to  
answer. It's not, "What's for dinner?" or "What  
am I going to do today?" It's "Where are you  
from?"

For most people, the answer comes right out,  
no hesitation, no thought required, just a simple  
"Florida" or "California." But for us brats, it  
takes time and thought to decide how to answer  
it.

My answer is usually something like, "I grew  
up in an Air Force family, so I've lived many  
places." The asker, who's trying to help me  
figure out where I'm from, says, "Well then,  
where were you born?" I answer Nebraska, but  
must explain I only lived there for three months  
of my life, so how could I be from there?

Next comes, "Well, were did you graduate  
from high school?" I say Panama, which  
normally gets a response of "Oh, Panama City,  
Florida?" to which I must reply, "No, Panama,  
the country." I can't really be from there either,  
because I'm not Panamanian.

Next comes, "Where did you graduate from  
college?" I tell them Florida, but I was only  
there for four years, so that doesn't really  
constitute being from there either.

In fact, I've never lived anywhere longer than  
four years.

A seemingly simple question requires quite a  
lengthy response from me. And they don't hear  
about the places in between that I had the  
wonderful opportunity to experience. Maybe  
I'm from one of those states.

For instance, maybe I'm from Delaware,  
where I spent the first four years of my life,  
where I learned that my dad was an Air Force  
pilot and his office was in the sky. My mom  
says every time I saw a plane I would say,  
"There goes daddy's office!"

Or maybe I'm from Illinois where I learned  
to ride my bike — with my dad holding on to  
my belt, of course.

Then again, maybe I'm from Alabama, where  
I lost my first tooth. Or it could be Virginia,  
where I was able to pick the color of my room in  
our new house. I picked sunshine yellow, and  
my dad painted my yellow room so it was  
waiting for me when I arrived.

Living a military life was the best thing that  
could have happened to me. I have moved  
11 times and experienced seven different  
states, two different countries and I won't even  
count how many different schools. I was given  
the opportunity to experience the world and meet  
many people.

I learned to make friends, say good-bye, keep

memories and appreciate differences. I learned  
the importance of family — when you move to a  
new place, they're all you've got!

Mom and dad were always positive when  
it came to moving. The fun, new, excit-  
ing things were always emphasized,  
like a new house, new school, new friends and,  
of course, a new room color! Their upbeat atti-  
tude shaped the way I felt about moving. It made  
me look forward to my next challenge rather than  
dreading the fact we were once again leaving.

All of my moving experiences made me who  
I am. I consider myself to be an outgoing  
person, someone who can adapt quickly. I had  
to become these things.

These are the traits I carry today and will  
need in the future as I begin to start my own Air  
Force family. You see, I liked it so much I chose  
to do it all over again!

(Editor's Note: This article is adapted from  
comments Kirsteatter made at her father's  
retirement ceremony. Col. Gary Kirsteatter  
served as chief of the combat support division at  
the Aerospace Expeditionary Force Center,  
Langley Air Force Base, Va., before retiring  
after 27 years of service. Kelly is the deputy  
director of the child development center at  
Kirtland AFB.)

## Direct Line

### Pledge of allegiance

Question: Sitting in our living room this  
evening talking with our high school  
daughters, we discovered that the  
United States Pledge of Allegiance is not recit-  
ed in the classroom daily and there are class-  
rooms in Bitburg High School without an  
American flag. This may seem petty to some,  
but to my husband and I it is unbelievable.

Maybe you can tell me why a Department of  
Defense school would not recite the pledge or  
even have a flag in the classroom. This all  
came to our attention after hearing "America  
the Beautiful" on TV and one of the girls  
commented she had never heard this song  
before. We told the girls we sang "America the  
Beautiful" or "My Country 'tis of Thee"  
following the pledge of allegiance everyday  
throughout elementary school, and the pledge  
only in junior high and high school!

I hope you can tell me what has happened to  
the pledge in the DOD schools here. Maybe  
there is something that can be done to bring it  
back. We all know the flag stands for liberty  
and justice for all, what could possibly be  
wrong with pledging our loyalty (allegiance) to  
it daily? What better time to put it back into  
our DOD high school?

Answer: Thanks for bringing this issue up,  
and you are absolutely right — all of our  
Department of Defense Dependent  
Schools students should be given the opportu-  
nity to show respect for the flag. Our high school  
students will now join the Eifel elementary and  
middle schools in this opportunity.

According to a Department of Defense  
Education Activity manual, "Each school will  
have an established policy to provide students  
with the opportunity to recite the pledge of  
allegiance and to salute the American flag.  
Students have the right to recite the pledge of  
allegiance and to salute the American flag, but  
may decline to do so as long as they respect the  
rights of others who wish to do so. Students  
have a responsibility for showing proper  
respect for those who wish to participate in the  
pledge of allegiance, flag salutes or patriotic  
ceremonies, and to respect the customs and  
flags of all nations."

As such, the Bitburg High School principal  
has implemented a policy, effective  
immediately, for the school (students and staff)  
to recite the pledge of allegiance each morning  
led by a student reading the morning  
announcements. Additionally, all classrooms  
will be equipped with an American flag.

## Reader's thoughts

Greetings to the Eifel,

Do you know you have an angel at  
Bitburg Middle School? We found her, or  
should I say, she found us.

The minute you enter the school, she  
appears with a friendly smile and a helpful  
word. Not only does this angelic woman  
greet you and make you feel welcome, but  
she cooks too!

We were lucky enough to have a  
workshop on "building the primary  
classroom" presented by Judy Jablon, but  
the tone of cooperation, togetherness and  
community was set by your very own  
Heather Dittig, the administrative assistant  
at BMS. She cooked and arranged  
delightful treats daily for us.

Heather even graciously took part in one  
of our activities proving she knew in-depth  
about your school's programs. Heather is  
an asset to all of the Department of  
Defense Dependent Schools. You are  
blessed for having her in your community.

Thank you, Heather.

(Sent by participants of the Sept. 10-11  
workshop - Allied Forces North  
Elementary, James Van Dierendonck  
Elementary, Kleine Brogel Elementary,  
district superintendent's office, regional  
office and Jablon.)

## Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. More movie synopsis information is available at:  
[www.aafes.com/europe/eur\\_mov/snop.htm](http://www.aafes.com/europe/eur_mov/snop.htm)

### Bitburg Castle

Today

#### Summer Catch (PG-13)

Tenley, a wealthy girl on summer vacation with her parents on Cape Cod, falls for a local boy Ryan, from a working class family and a pitcher for Boston College who dreams of becoming a big-time baseball star.

Saturday

#### Summer Catch

Sunday

#### Cats and Dogs (PG)

There's a secret war being waged in the homes and neighborhoods of Earth that humans don't even know about; an eternal struggle between two great armies — the cats and the dogs. Cats plan to destroy a new vaccine, that if developed, would destroy all human allergies to dogs and the dogs try to stop the cats from destroying the vaccine.

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday

#### Pootie Tang (PG-13)

Pootie Tang is the ultimate super hero. A cool-walking, smooth-talking ladies man. Everyone looks up to Pootie except for the evil Dick Lecter, the CEO of the company that makes cigarettes, alcohol and fast food.

Thursday

#### (To be announced)

### Spangdahlem Skyline

Today

#### Jeepers Creepers (R)

After making a horrific discovery in the basement of an old abandoned church, Trish and her brother Darryl watch their routine road trip home from college turn into a heart-stopping race for their lives. They find themselves the chosen prey of an indestructible force that relentlessly pursues them.

Saturday

#### Jeepers Creepers

#### Final Fantasy: The Spirit Within (9:30 p.m., PG-13)

In the future, the Earth is invaded. Great cities are deserted, populations are decimated and aliens take over the planet. Aki Ross, Dr. Sid and the few humans who remain must find a way to survive the invasion and reclaim the planet.

Sunday

#### Legally Blonde (PG-13)

Elle has a cute boyfriend who dumps her because she's "too blonde" and not serious enough for his future political career. To prove him wrong, she attends Harvard Law School and is soon at the top of her class.

Monday

#### Legally Blonde

Tuesday

#### Final Fantasy: The Spirit Within

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Times and movies are subject to change.  
For the most current information,  
call 452-9441.

## Maria Laach -- monastery at volcanic lake

By Iris Reiff  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Every year 2 million tourists, pilgrims, art-lovers and curious folks visit Maria Laach, a popular day-excursion site.

Fields, green woods, a deep blue lake and a monastery make up the site, which is not far from Spangdahlem Air Base.

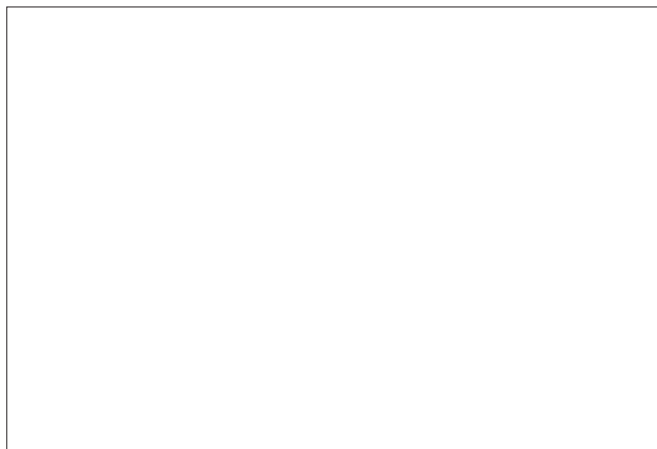
Lake Laach, at 2.4 kilometers long and 1.8 kilometers wide, is the largest lake in the Eifel region. A volcanic eruption created the Maar, or volcanic lake.

Throughout history, the abbey has seen many changes. The abbey church officially opened Aug. 24, 1156. In 1230, after the "Paradiseses" vestibule was built, the church was finally finished. At the end of the 15th century, the Laach monastery became a center of art and science.

Like many other monasteries, it closed after the French Revolution Aug. 2, 1802. Thirteen years later it was given to the Prussian state. In 1862, the monastery was taken over by the Jesuit order. It was turned into a Collegium Maximum to teach young aspiring monks of the order. This is when it was given its present name "Maria Laach". In 1892, Benedictine monks from the arch abbey of Beuron on the Danube River moved into the monastery.

Today, more than 60 monks live in the monastery. They follow the commandments of Saint Benedikt of Nursia, who in the sixth century preached a balance of work and prayer: ora et labora. The monks follow this lesson during their daily work.

There is plenty of work to see in the monastery. It has its own art publishing house, as well as a greenhouse. People can also see wrought iron in the making, a stone



Courtesy photo

The Maria Laach Abbey is the home of more than 60 monks. They follow the commandments of Saint Benedikt of Nursia, who in the sixth century preached a balance of work and prayer.

working shop, bookstore and hotel. The monastery, with its 200 employees, is one of the largest employers of the area.

While with time the world has changed, so has life in monasteries. Equipment of the 20th century, such as computers, electric typewriters and fax machines, found its way into the abbey.

There is a new information center where the monks answer questions from visitors. Soft music in the church provides the background for a short meditation. The wide steps of the west group leads into the vestibule of the abbey. On three sides charming views frame the inner courtyard.

Fountains of gurgling lions are found here.

When entering the interior of the abbey church, the best view is from the middle. From there, people can see views of the high altar, mosaics, stained glass windows and the vault.

In the western apse, the tomb of Count Palatine Heinrich II can be seen. People can also see the crypt and the Benedict Chapel in this area.

Maria Laach is located near A-61, between Kreifel and Ludwigshafen. As you get closer, signs will direct you.

From the huge parking lot there are direct views of both the lake and the monastery.

## Sports shorts

### Barons lose conference game

By Rik Carr  
Bitburg High School football coach

Just how badly the Bitburg Barons missed the loss of last year's eight first-team All Europe players showed on the scoreboard Saturday - 42-0.

In its first conference game of the season, Bitburg lost to the International School of Brussels. It was ISB's third shutout and mercy-rule game this season, while only one other team has scored that many points against Bitburg in the past 25 years.

Department of Defense Dependent Schools rules halt scoring once a team leads by 40 points, although play may continue if both coaches agree. Both coaches agreed Saturday, and in the opening minutes of resumed play, Barons linebacker Braden Blake picked up a Red Raider fumble and rumbled 60 yards for the only Barons trip to the end zone.

The junior varsity matched the starters performance in a 6-6 fifth quarter. Quarterback Demarkus Littles teamed up with tight end Anthony Fornicola for the lone Baron JV score.

The loss drops the Barons to 0-2 and dims its hopes of defending the Division II title.

Bitburg hosts the Allied Forces North

Lions in a homecoming conference game Saturday that's a must win for both teams. Former Baron Ryan Butler returns to the Bitburg field to face his old team.

Action heats up tonight with a spirit walk at 6 starting in front of the Bitburg Annex hospital, followed by a pep rally at 6:45 and a bon fire at the high school. The homecoming game starts at 12:30 p.m. Saturday followed by a fifth-quarter junior varsity match. Other high school sports on tap at home this weekend include volleyball and tennis.

Individual statistics:

Rushing - Braden Blake 3-8, Ryan Thomas 4-15, Travis Carr 2-5, Josh Blake 3- -1, Andy Flores 3- -6, Shayne Czyzewski 3- -1

Passing - Carr 16-5-0 16, J. Blake 2-1-0 5

Receiving - Czyzewski 1-6, Carr 1-5, Tyler Romano 1-4, J. Blake 2-4, Thomas 1-2

### Swim team

The Eifel Sharks swim season began recently in the Cascade pool. The team still needs swimmers, including high school students who can earn a varsity letter. The only criterion is swimmers must be able to swim the length of the pool unassisted.

Registration costs \$10 per swimmer or \$20 per family. Monthly fees are \$35 per month, per person, with family rates also available.

For more information, call Laura Darden at 06561-604768.

### Fitness center hours

The Spangdahlem Air Base Fitness Center is now open around the clock, daily. The Bitburg Annex Fitness Center is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

### Fitness standards

New Health and Wellness Center statistics show the wing currently has a 62 percent pass-rate for push-ups and 55 percent pass-rate for sit-ups. The standards for these additions to the annual fitness test become mandatory in three months. Wing leadership encourages everyone to take advantage of the new Spangdahlem Air Base fitness center hours and get in shape.

### Rugby players

Senior Airman Alf Thompson seeks players for a team to field in the upcoming rugby season. No experience is necessary. For more information, call 452-6761.